Amendments to the claims:

1 – 7. (canceled).

8. (currently amended): Apparatus which authenticates a digital representation of an object, the digital representation including frequency components and the apparatus comprising:

an apparatus component which uses first information in at least a first frequency component of the frequency components to produce first authentication information; and

an incorporator which incorporates the first authentication information into at least a second frequency component of the frequency components that is separate from ~~does not overlap~~ the first frequency component.

9. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 8 wherein:

the frequency components are coefficient values that represent significant frequency components that are computed by a perception model.

10. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 9 wherein:

the perception model is an auditory perception model.

11. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 9 wherein:

the perception model is a visual perception model.

12. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 8 wherein:

the frequency components are contained in DCT blocks.

13. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 8 wherein:

the first authentication information is a digital signature.

14. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 8 wherein:

the first authentication information is a secure hash code.

15. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 8 wherein:

the first authentication information is a cryptographic code.

16. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 8 wherein:

the first authentication information is a hash code.

17. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the apparatus component comprises instructions executed by electronic processing circuitry.

18. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the apparatus component comprises at least electronic processing circuitry.

19. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the apparatus component comprises at least a machine-readable medium comprising instructions stored thereon to use the first information in the first frequency components to produce the first authentication information.

20. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the apparatus component comprises at least one component from a group comprising at least ~~one of~~ firmware, hardware, instructions executing on digital circuitry, and a computer readable medium comprising executable instructions stored thereon.

21 – 24. canceled.

25. (new): A method comprising:

receiving digital data representing an object, wherein the digital data comprises a plurality of frequency components;

producing first authentication information from at least a first frequency component of the plurality of frequency components; and

incorporating the first authentication information into at least a second frequency component of the plurality of frequency components, wherein the second frequency component and the first frequency component are separate frequency components.

26. (new): The method of claim 25 where the first authentication information comprises a digital signature.

27. (new): The method of claim 25 where the first authentication information comprises a secure hash code.

28. (new): The method of claim 25 where the first authentication information comprises a cryptographic code.

29. (new): The method of claim 25 where the first authentication information comprises a hash code.

30. (new): A machine-readable medium comprising instructions to execute the method of claim 25.

31. (new): The method of claim 25 where the frequency components are coefficient values that represent significant frequency components that are computed by a perception model.

32. (new): The method of claim 31 where the perception model is an auditory perception model.

33 (new): The method of claim 31 where the perception model is a visual perception model.